



National Infrastructure Protection Center NIPC Daily Open Source Report for 27 February 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The New York Times reports a House panel today gave the Federal Emergency Management Agency 30 days to disclose how it intends to respond to a state report concluding that emergency plans are inadequate to protect the public in the event of a disastrous radiation leak at the Indian Point nuclear power plant in New York's Westchester County. (See item [1](#))
- The Associated Press reports four Arab men were indicted Wednesday on federal charges that they illegally sent at least \$4 million to Iraq through a Syracuse-area charity called Help the Needy. (See item [9](#))
- Microsoft released "Security Bulletin MS03-006: Flaw in Windows Me Help and Support Center could enable code execution (Critical)," and a patch is available at the Microsoft website. (See item [28](#))
- Reuters reports officials at one of Canada's biggest Internet service providers said Tuesday that organizers of a scam had sent out fraudulent e-mails to some 1,900 of their 1.4 million customers last week, asking for details such as driver's license, credit card and bank numbers and security codes. (See item [29](#))
- Note from the Editor: We are unable to provide a list of the Top 10 Target Ports due to technical difficulties. We apologize for the inconvenience.

NIPC Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector



Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 26, New York Times* — **FEMA given deadline on Indian Point report. A House panel today gave the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 30 days to disclose how it intends to respond to a state report concluding that emergency plans are inadequate to protect the public in the event of a disastrous radiation leak at the Indian Point nuclear power plant in Westchester County.** In January, an independent report commissioned by Governor George E. Pataki concluded that current evacuation plans cannot protect residents in the densely populated, four-county area around Indian Point. The report was compiled by James Lee Witt, a former director of FEMA. But state officials provided no further guidance to FEMA on whether the evacuation plans could work. Today, members of the House subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management told Joseph J. Picciano, the acting regional director of FEMA, that the agency had 30 days to provide a detailed response to the findings in the report commissioned by Governor Pataki. **The current disaster plan focuses on the 300,000 people who live within 10 miles of the plant and would be most affected by a disaster. Although the report by Witt said the state should take into account people evacuating on their own outside that 10-mile radius, it did not suggest that wholesale evacuation plans be developed for more distant places like New York City.**
Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/26/nyregion/26NUKE.html>
2. *February 26, United States Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board* — **Company reports second gas leak in five months. A chemical release caused a small scare Monday after a Camp Croft, SC company reported its second gas leak in five months. Blackman Uhler Chemical Specialty Division, a part of Spartanburg-based Synalloy Corp., reported that a mechanical failure inside its plant caused gas to escape from its pressurized system. No one was hurt.** "We called the DHEC (Department of Health and Environmental Control) and local emergency people on this one not because we knew we had too big of a discharge, but just in case we did," said Royal King, company vice president of engineering. **King said fewer than 1,000 pounds of the colorless gas, T-Butyl Amine, was released into atmosphere. He described the gas as a "distant cousin to ammonia."** King said although he hadn't been able to make a thorough investigation by the end of Monday, he did come to the conclusion that the gas leak happened because of a faulty gasket on a reactor. By 9:45 a.m., Croft Fire Chief Lewis Hayes ruled that the gas was contained since it went "straight up into the air" and not into low-lying areas. **"It kind of concerns me because this is the second time we have responded to a chemical release from this company in five months," Hayes said.** The last leak happened in September 2002, when some extra water accidentally got mixed into a batch of nitrous oxide.
Source: http://www.chemsafety.gov/circ/post.cfm?incident_id=6359
3. *February 25, Platts Global Energy News* — **NRC issues 'red' finding to Davis-Besse.** The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued a preliminary "red" finding to Davis-Besse Tuesday. The red finding—which is the highest level in NRC's color-coded four-tiered system and indicates high safety significance—is the third since the NRC established the Reactor Oversight Process in 2000. (The other two were at Indian Point in 2000 and Point Beach in 2002.) **The color finding generally indicates what actions the NRC will take to improve plant performance, but that is not the case for Davis-Besse, since it already is under the**

oversight of a special panel under NRC's Inspection Manual Chapter 0350, said NRC Region III spokesman Jan Strasma. The finding also will not have an impact on the 0350 panel's decision on restarting the plant, which has been out of service for a year, Strasma said.

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear1.html>

4. *February 25, Platts Global Energy News* — **Russian official says Iran will be open about nuclear program. Iran is "prepared to demonstrate maximum transparency in its nuclear activities," a Russian parliamentarian says.** Mikhail Margelov, the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Federation Council (the upper chamber of the Russian parliament), says in prepared testimony that he is to present to the U.S. House International Relations Committee hearing Wednesday that "Iran is ready to contribute to the program enhancing efficiency of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) guarantees," an apparent reference to the IAEA's Additional Protocol that gives the agency greater inspection authority within states that have signed it. **IAEA Director General Mohamed El Baradei reportedly pressed Teheran to sign the protocol during his visit to the country last weekend, but it is not clear what progress he made. Russia is building an LWR at Iran's Bushehr site.**

Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/nuclear2.html>

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Chemical Sector

Nothing to report.

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

5. *February 26, Government Executive* — **Service chiefs say troops 'stressed' by mounting demands.** The strain on U.S. armed forces from the war on terrorism and the looming conflict with Iraq was a primary issue in the appearance Tuesday of the four service chiefs before the Senate Armed Services Committee. **All of the military leaders said their forces were more ready for combat than at any time in their careers. Then, when pressed by Armed Services Chairman Warner and Sen. James Inhofe, R-OK, they all conceded their troops were "stressed" by the mounting operational demands.** But only Gen. Eric Shinseki, the Army chief of staff, made a strong case for additional personnel. Shinseki particularly noted the heavy and consistent demand being placed on the National Guard and Reserves. **"We're going to them far more frequently than we expected," he said. "After these set of contingencies are over, we are going to need to re-evaluate" the distribution of duties between active and reserve forces.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022603cdam1.htm>

6. *February 26, Department of Defense* — **National Guard and Reserve mobilized as of February 26, 2003.** This week the Army, Air Force, and Marine Corps each announce an increase of reservists on active duty in support of the partial mobilization. The Navy reports no

change. **The net collective result is 16,735 more reservists than last week.** The total number of reserve personnel currently on active duty in support of the partial mobilization for the Army National Guard and Army Reserve is 123,448; Naval Reserve, 6,933; Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve, 19,906; Marine Corps Reserve, 14,727; and the Coast Guard Reserve, 3,069. **This brings the total Reserve and National Guard on active duty to 168,083 including both units and individual augmentees.**

Source: http://www.defenselink.mil/news/Feb2003/b02262003_bt084-03.html

7. *February 26, Washington Post* — **U.S. increases estimated cost of war in Iraq.** The Pentagon has sharply increased the estimated cost of a war in Iraq to as much as \$95 billion for the combat phase and immediate aftermath, with huge reconstruction and occupation costs to come later, administration and congressional officials said on Tuesday. **The officials said Defense Department planners are pegging the cost of the expected war at \$60 billion to \$95 billion. The long-term expense of occupying and rebuilding Iraq, as well as providing postwar humanitarian relief to as many as 2 million refugees, would be added to those costs, resulting in a marked increase in the \$300 billion budget deficit the administration had projected for each of the next two years.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2247-2003Feb25.html>

8. *February 25, Associated Press* — **Pentagon begins emergency mask training.** The Pentagon began training employees Tuesday to use emergency gas masks being distributed to prepare for possible chemical or biological terror attacks. **By the end of the week, officials expect to be handing out 500 masks a day to the 24,000 Pentagon workers and stashing hundreds of the masks in high-traffic areas like cafeterias, said Col. Mandy Lopez of the Pentagon's security agency. About 80,000 masks will be available for Defense Department and other workers as well as visitors at the Pentagon and at other government office buildings throughout the Washington area.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A993-2003Feb25.html>

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Banking and Finance Sector

9. *February 26, Associated Press* — **Four charged in sending millions to Iraq.** Four Arab men were indicted Wednesday on federal charges they illegally sent at least \$4 million to Iraq through a Syracuse-area charity called Help the Needy. The four men are accused of using the charity to solicit contributions from people in the United States, depositing money in central New York banks and laundering much of it through the Jordan Islamic Bank in Amman. **Charged were oncologist Dr. Rafil Dhafir, 55, of Fayetteville, N.Y., a U.S. citizen born in Iraq; Maher Zagher, 34, a Jordanian who attended college locally; Ayman Jarwan, 33, of Syracuse, a Jordanian citizen born in Saudi Arabia who worked as the executive director of Help the Needy; Osameh Al Wahaidy, 41, of Fayetteville, a Jordanian citizen employed as a spiritual leader at the Auburn Correctional Facility and a math instructor at the State University of New York at Oswego. Dhafir, Jarwan and Al Wahaidy were arrested in the Syracuse area; Zagher's whereabouts were not immediately disclosed. The four men and the charity were charged with conspiring to transfer funds to Iraq in violation of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Dhafir, Zagher and the charity were**

charged with 12 counts of money laundering and one count of conspiracy to commit money laundering.

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story_rests

10. *February 24, Bank Systems & Technology* — Resiliency in the wholesale payments system.

With the tragic events of September 11th now more than a year in the past, industry regulators have had a chance to assess the resiliency of the high-value payments systems. **Both in the United States and abroad, regulators are addressing concerns about potential points of failure in the payments systems.** The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) not only is advancing Basel II, which targets disaster and business disruption among its operational risk loss events, but also is strengthening its Core Principles for systemically important payment systems. U.S. regulators are taking a closer look at how technology and infrastructure vulnerabilities might increase systemic risk in the domestic payments system. **The "Draft Interagency White Paper on Sound Practices to Strengthen the Resilience of the U.S. Financial System," ("Sound Practices"), issued in August 2002 by the Federal Reserve, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and the Securities and Exchange Commission, recommends specific objectives for the contingency and business resumption programs of core settlement organizations and "significant firms" in critical financial markets.** These regulatory initiatives place additional pressure on the payments systems operators (CHIPS and Fedwire) and on the largest banks providing payment clearing and settlement services. There are two U.S. high-value payment systems that give the U.S. payments system an added level of resilience. **Fedwire and CHIPS each has its own robust recovery and resumption capabilities. Moreover, both systems have established rules and procedures for participant banks to minimize risk and ensure the operational integrity of the payments system.** Both require their members to have substantial disaster preparedness and to participate in contingency tests. Contingency and business continuity requirements are also spelled out by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC), which sets uniform standards for federal regulators and issues directives to financial institutions. The FFIEC is currently updating its requirements for business continuity planning for the first time since 1996.

Source: <http://www.banktech.com/story/news/BNK20030224S0001>

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Transportation Sector

11. *February 26, Transportation Security Administration* — Secretary Mineta meets pledge to deliver "ready" TSA to Homeland Security.

The head of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) outlined on Wednesday the young agency's accomplishments and the projects it will carry Saturday from the Department of Transportation to the Department of Homeland Security. Loy said TSA's success has helped rebuild air travelers' confidence in aviation security. **Loy said the TSA met 36 mandates set down by Congress – including screening all passengers by the TSA's first anniversary and all baggage by Dec. 31, 2002 – while developing a fully functioning agency of about 64,000 employees.** The TSA hired 158 federal security directors who are responsible for the nation's 529 commercial airports; deployed thousands of federal air marshals; done background checks on about 1 million workers who have access to secure areas of airports; and reduced wait times and other "hassles"

for air travelers, fulfilling Secretary Norma Y. Mineta's vision of delivering world-class customer service as well as world-class security.

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/tsa1403.htm>

12. *February 26, Washington Post* — **Armed pilots must put guns in lockboxes.** On Tuesday, Transportation security chief James M. Loy approved a program to train commercial airline pilots to use semiautomatic handguns, but the plan was criticized by pilots who said it posed safety risks. Loy, head of the Transportation Security Administration, was required by Congress to develop an armed-pilots program by Tuesday. Over the next several weeks, the agency will select the first group of 48 pilots to be trained for a week to be "federal flight deck officers." **The first armed pilots are expected to begin flying by May**, a TSA spokesman said. Pilots criticized as unsafe the TSA's plan to require them to carry their assigned .40-caliber weapons in lockboxes through airports to aircraft.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A2178-2003Feb25.html>

13. *February 25, General Accounting Office* — **Airport finance: past funding levels may not be sufficient to cover airport's planned capital development.** On Tuesday, February 25, Gerald L. Dillingham, Director of Civil Aviation Issues for the General Accounting Office (GAO), testified before the Subcommittee on Aviation, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation regarding airport finances. Dillingham's testimony was provided as the subcommittee prepares to reauthorize the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21). In his opening remarks, Dillingham noted that much in the airline industry has changed since Congress enacted AIR-21 3 years ago. **Today, flights are being cancelled for lack of business, two major air carriers are in bankruptcy, and attention has shifted from increasing the capacity of the national air space system to enhancing aviation security.** Dillingham concluded that sustaining recent funding levels would allow the majority of planned airport capital development to move forward, but **it would not cover all of the airport's estimated costs, and it would not address the costly terminal modifications needed to accommodate explosives detection systems.**

Source: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d03497t.pdf>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

14. *February 26, New York Times* — **New system to extend harbor's surveillance beyond horizon.** When it comes to watching what travels through the busy waters surrounding New York City, the surveillance cameras that captured a deadly explosion off Staten Island last week are just the tip of the iceberg. **The cameras, which are in place to record the activity of just about everything that floats, are scheduled to expand their range under a new system announced on Tuesday that will enable the Coast Guard to automatically identify vessels up to 30 miles away.** The system will allow for an "over the horizon view" of arriving vessels, said Capt. Craig Bone, the Coast Guard's captain of the Port of New York and New Jersey. It will allow Coast Guard officials to know not just which ships are on their way, Captain Bone said, but where they are likely to go. **The system, which is also to be installed at Houston-Galveston and Port Arthur, TX, lets operators sitting before two computer screens "pull up a display that will tell us where they were last time they were here, how**

long they stayed and what cargoes they transferred," he added.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/02/26/nyregion/26VIDE.html?ntem ail0>

15. *February 26, Reuters* — **Hong Kong terminal operators form venture.** Three of the four operators of Hong Kong's main container terminals have formed an e-commerce joint venture, called OnePort, **to enable online completion and submission of official government documentation.** "OnePort's mission is to improve the efficiency of the business processes at the Port of Hong Kong by providing value-added services on an open, secure and neutral platform for electronic information exchange between all port users," the joint venture said. **It will also help users comply with new U.S. Customs security requirements. Starting in March, advanced customs documents services will be up and running,** with paperless container exchange services, haulier services and shipping document services to be operational within the third quarter.

Source: http://business-times.asia1.com.sg/sub/shippingtimes/story/0_4574.73764.00.html?

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Agriculture Sector

16. *February 26, Associated Press* — **Boulder gives go-ahead to shoot deer.** Boulder, CO has **given the go-ahead for state wildlife officials to shoot about 50 deer on open space to try to control chronic wasting disease.** The county commissioners gave their permission Tuesday after a two-hour public hearing in which opponents criticized the Division of Wildlife's policy for battling the fatal brain disease. "The question now is to do nothing or proceed with the imperfect and clumsy tools that are available," Commissioner Paul Danish said. "My feeling is to proceed with the Division of Wildlife for now." **Charles Southwick, an emeritus biology professor at the University of Colorado, warned that the plans might backfire. Removing healthy animals from deer herds could leave a population more susceptible to disease if some animals have genetic resistance to the illness, he said.**

Source: http://www.trib.com/AP/wire_detail.php?wire_num=122892

17. *February 26, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Scotland finds brucellosis in cattle.** Two cases of **bovine brucellosis have been confirmed in a Scottish beef herd. The cases were found in imported animals from the Republic of Ireland (ROI).** This is the first case of the disease to be identified on the United Kingdom mainland (Great Britain) since an October 1993 outbreak linked to imports of cattle from France, according to a U.S. Agriculture Department report. According to the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Scottish Executive, the outbreak of bovine brucellosis was confirmed following the abortion of a fetus on a mixed beef and sheep farm in the Forfar area of Angus, Scotland. **The herd had been under movement restrictions following notification at the end of December that there had been a brucellosis breakdown in the herd of origin in the ROI.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=237t>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

18. *February 25, Atlanta Journal Constitution* — **Governors to work on water pact. The governors of Georgia, Alabama and Florida agreed Monday that their states will not sue each other for at least four months over metro Atlanta's water supply.** In the meantime, they pledged to personally negotiate their states' long-standing feud over sharing the waters of two major river basins. That would move the five-year effort to reach a settlement in the tri-state water war to a higher level. Heretofore, governors of the three states have sent their representatives to the bargaining table. **All three states are battling over sharing the waters of the Appalachicola–Chattahoochee–Flint river system. Georgia and Alabama are fighting over the waters of the Alabama–Coosa–Tallapoosa river basin.**

Source: <http://www.accessatlanta.com/ajc/metro/0203/25water.html>

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Public Health Sector

19. *February 26, Scout News* — **Companies contracted to create safer smallpox vaccine. Two companies have been awarded U.S. federal government contracts to develop safer smallpox vaccines.** The companies will receive up to \$20 million in first-year funding, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says. The three-year contracts, to be administered by the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, specify deadlines for the companies to produce prototype vaccines and to perform safety testing on animals and humans. **The companies will develop, manufacture, and conduct safety trials of modified vaccinia virus Ankara (MVA) vaccine candidates. Current smallpox vaccines use live vaccinia virus, which can spread throughout the body and cause potentially serious or deadly side effects. MVA can't replicate inside human cells and therefore can't spread through the body, the companies say.**

Source: <http://drkoop.com/template.asp?page=newsdetail942>

20. *February 25, Bloomberg* — **Congress drafting compensation plan for smallpox–vaccine injury. U.S. House and Senate lawmakers are crafting plans to compensate anyone injured by the smallpox vaccine in an effort to encourage more health-care workers to get inoculated, congressional aides said.** Senators Judd Gregg and Edward Kennedy are working on a proposal establishing a fund to pay for the care and lost wages of public-health agents and hospital workers who develop serious side effects from the vaccine, their spokespeople said. The House Energy and Commerce Committee is developing similar legislation, deputy staff director Patrick Morrissey said. President Bush's plan to inoculate about 450,000 health workers to prepare the U.S. for a bioterrorist attack using smallpox got off to a slow start, with only 4,213 receiving shots as of last week. Some hospitals declined to participate in the campaign until a compensation system is worked out.

Source: http://quote.bloomberg.com/fgcgi.cgi?ptitle=Top%20World%20Newsright_topworld

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Government Sector

21. *February 26, Government Executive* — **Senate appropriations panel reorganizes to accommodate Homeland Security.** Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens, R-AK, is going to move ahead and reorganize his committee to accommodate the new Homeland Security Department in a way similar to the House Appropriations Committee reorganization earlier this month. **The plan would be to keep the total number of subcommittees at 13, but create a new Homeland Security Subcommittee that would oversee the Transportation Security Administration, the Coast Guard and a host of other legal and independent agencies that handle immigration and emergency-response efforts of the federal government.** Meanwhile, the other transportation agencies unrelated to homeland security would be merged with other White House entities in a new Transportation and Treasury Subcommittee.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022603cdam2.htm>

22. *February 26, Government Executive* — **House chairman plans aggressive oversight of security agencies.** House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young, R-AK, will conduct oversight investigations into a host of key security issues, including the ongoing creation of the Homeland Security Department, efforts to boost aviation security and whether the new emphasis on terrorism has resulted in federal lapses in emergency management and preparedness, among other issues. **Because the committee has jurisdiction over the aviation industry, highways, the nation's rail systems and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Young has broad authority to investigate virtually every aspect of the Bush administration's security projects. Additionally, federal legislation creating the Homeland Security Department integrated a number of existing agencies under Young's scrutiny, such as the Coast Guard, into the new department, making the way in which the Homeland Security Department is organized of particular interest to the committee.** A handful of the committee's members have also been named to the Select Committee on Homeland Security, including Republicans Young and Sherwood Boehlert of New York and Democratic Reps. Peter DeFazio of Oregon and Bill Pascrell of New Jersey, as well as Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton, D-D.C.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0203/022503cdam1.htm>

23. *February 26, Detroit Free Press* — **Homeland defenders cite burnout dangers.** In a rare move, the cash-strapped union representing 161 U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service workers in Michigan, is **demanding arbitration on a list of grievances union leaders say has crushed morale, sapped the workforce and left the agency dangerously vulnerable to the type of human error that could result in a terrorist slipping into the state. Forbidden to strike, it's the strongest action the union can take.** The move follows a series of upheavals in their work lives that began with the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and was recently capped by a new federal program requiring visiting men from some ethnic-Arab countries to meet a registration deadline. **Employees were already pulling 16-hour shifts at Michigan's bridges, tunnel and Metro Airport because of elevated terror alerts when, in October, their**

vacation days were indefinitely postponed, their schedules and some job assignments were changed, and managers demanded doctors notes for sick days. "People were sick from exhaustion. Families were being torn apart," said Frank Stanzcak, an airport inspector who took over the presidency of the union last fall and decided something had to be done.

Source: http://www.freep.com/news/metro/ins26_20030226.htm

24. *February 25, Government Executive* — **Border security chief outlines first set of management changes.** Homeland Security officials will name interim port directors at 350 U.S. ports of entry when border agencies shift into the new department on March 1, Border and Transportation Security chief Asa Hutchinson said Tuesday. **Creating a single chain of command at U.S. ports is one of a few behind-the-scenes management changes that Homeland Security officials will make as the department absorbs more than 20 agencies on Saturday, Hutchinson said in an interview with Government Executive.** Most of the changes will be invisible to the public and will have little effect on how employees perform their jobs. But they mark a first step in the department's quest to reap management efficiencies at federal border agencies. That should improve border security, Hutchinson said. **Currently, the Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, and Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) each maintain their own management structures at ports of entry. Saturday's action will merge the chains of command at ports and put all inspectors under a single port director, who in turn will be accountable to the new Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, headed by current Customs Commissioner Robert Bonner.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailiyfed/0203/022503p1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

25. *February 26, Federal Register* — **Interim rule on abbreviation or waiver of training for state or local law enforcement officers authorized to enforce immigration law during a mass influx of aliens.** The Department of Justice published an amended rule in the Federal Register on February 26 to authorize the Attorney General **to waive normally required training requirements in the event that the number of state or local law enforcement officers available to respond in an expeditious manner to urgent and quickly developing events during a declared mass influx of aliens is insufficient to protect public safety, public health, or national security.** The Justice Department stated that this action was necessary to provide the Attorney General with the tools and flexibility to address any unanticipated situations that might occur during a mass influx of aliens. This interim rule is effective February 26, 2003. Written comments must be submitted on or before April 28, 2003.

Source: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocke.t.access.gpo.gov/2003/03-4441.htm>

26. *February 26, Garnett News Service* — **Agencies trained for terror response.** A two-day anti-terrorism course was completed Tuesday at the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers Training Academy in Rankin County. About 90 people from first-responder agencies – law enforcement, fire, medical and emergency management – in Hinds, Holmes, Madison, Rankin, Warren, Marion and Jefferson Davis counties participated in the training. **Code named**

PATRIOT for Preventive Anti-terrorism, Threat Recognition, Interdiction and Operational Techniques, the training is taking place in 11 cities across the state through September. The training, sponsored by the U.S. attorney offices for the state's Northern and Southern Districts, is the first time first responders are training together.

Source: <http://www.clarionledger.com/news/0302/26/m11.html>

27. *February 25, Federal Computer Week* — **Emergency training goes to campus.** Three universities are uniting to establish a training center for emergency service first responders in Virginia's northern corridor, fueled by \$5 million provided through the recently signed federal fiscal 2003 spending bill. **The center, which initially will be called the Response to Emergencies and Disaster Institute (READI), will be located at The George Washington University's Loudon County campus. The other schools involved in the project are George Mason and Shenandoah universities.** Rep. Frank Wolf (R-VA), whose area of constituency includes the new center's site, believes READI has the potential to become one of the premier training facilities in the area, providing first responders with the kind of information they need to deal with large-scale incidents. **The training READI offers is expected to complement the activities of the recently formed Virginia Institute for Defense and Homeland Security (IDHS). The IDHS is a research, education and technology transfer consortium that will develop and commercialize technologies in telecommunications, biodefense, sensor systems and risk management.**

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/geb/articles/2003/0224/web-virginia-02-25-03.asp>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

28. *February 26, Microsoft* — **Microsoft Security Bulletin MS03-006: Flaw in Windows Me Help and Support Center could enable code execution .** A security vulnerability is present in the Windows Me version of Microsoft's Help and Support Center. Users and programs can execute URL links to Help and Support Center by using the "hcp://" prefix in a URL link instead of "<http://>". The vulnerability results because **the URL Handler for the "hcp://" prefix contains an unchecked buffer.** An attacker who successfully exploited this vulnerability could cause code of his or her choice to be executed as though it originated on the local machine. **Such code could provide the attacker with the ability to take any desired action on the machine, including adding, deleting or modifying data on the system or running any code of the attacker's choice.** Microsoft assigned a risk rating of "Critical" to this vulnerability. A patch is available at the Microsoft website.

Source: <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS03-006.asp>

29. *February 25, Reuters* — **Canada's Sympatico targeted in Internet scam.** Company officials at Sympatico, one of Canada's biggest Internet service providers (ISP), said Tuesday that organizers of a scam had sent out fraudulent e-mails to some 1,900 of Sympatico's 1.4 million customers last week. The e-mails told customers to fill out an online form to correct an error in their billing information and directed them to a fake site which asked for details, including driver's license, credit card and bank numbers and security codes. The fake site has since been shut down. "We did take immediate action to minimize the impact.



E-mails that were going out to our customers were stopped and we contacted the ISP that was hosting this particular site," said Andrew Cole, a spokesman for Bell Canada. Cole said **those who filled out the online forms should contact the police, their banks and credit card issuers**. The company does not know who was behind the scam. "What we do know is **the site was hosted in the United States. However, the e-mail itself was relayed through Japan**...law enforcement and Bell security are certainly looking into the source," he said. He said the company did not think it was necessary to e-mail all of its customers, but that it had included several warnings about it on its sites. Sympatico.ca is owned by BCE Inc.'s Bell Canada unit, Canada's largest phone company.

Source: <http://www.forbes.com/business/newswire/2003/02/25/rtr890168.html>

30. *February 25, Government Computer News* — **Congressional group turns spotlight on enhanced 911**. A group of lawmakers today launched the **congressional E-911 Caucus**, a committee of senators and representatives who want to make sure that emergency call centers get the funding they need to comply with the Federal Communications Commission's Enhanced-911 services mandate. When fully in place, the E-911 services will let emergency dispatchers track the location of any cellular phone that is turned on. Sen. Conrad Burns (R-MT), who will serve as a co-chairman of the caucus along with Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY), said E-911 services use a variety of technologies, including triangulation and Global Positioning System programs, to pinpoint the location of cell phone callers. **The nation's wireless carriers have until 2005 to adapt their service so that emergency dispatchers can find the location of a 911 call made on a cell phone**. All of the nation's wireless carriers missed the FCC's original deadline of October 2001 to begin making the first series of enhancements to the 911 system.

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21257-1.html

Internet Alert Dashboard

Current Alert Levels	
 <p>AlertCon: 1 out of 4 https://gtoc.iss.net</p>	 <p>Security Focus ThreatCon: 1 out of 4 http://analyzer.securityfocus.com/</p>
Current Virus and Port Attacks	
Virus:	<p>#1 Virus in the United States: PE_FUNLOVE.4099 Source: http://wtc.trendmicro.com/wtc/wmap.html, Trend World Micro Virus Tracking Center [Infected Computers, North America, Past 24 hours, #1 in United States]</p>
Top 10 Target Ports	<p>[fetch Target Ports (auto)]</p>

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General Sector

31. *February 26, Reuters* — **British police charge three with chemical weapons plot.** Three men were charged on Wednesday with conspiring to make chemical weapons as part of anti-terrorist police investigations into the discovery of the deadly poison ricin in a north London flat last month. London's Metropolitan police said **Rabah Kadre, 35, Mouloud Sihali, 27 and David Aissa Khalef, 20 will appear in court later Wednesday charged with conspiring with others to develop or produce a chemical weapon.**

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A4514-2003Feb26.html>

32. *February 26, Associated Press* — **'It should have been a wake-up call'.** The first terrorist attack on the trade center on Feb. 26, 1993, put a hole half the size of a football field in the complex's basement, killed six people and injured 1,000 others who escaped through smoky stairwells. **Reflecting on the 10-year anniversary of the bombing, two top law enforcement officials said the nation badly underestimated the terrorist threat to come. And, in interviews with The Associated Press, they said investigators failed to adjust as the terrorists grew more sophisticated. "It should have been a wake-up call for America," said Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, who held the same position at the time. "We simply didn't see it as an international conspiracy to destroy our society."** The significance of the attack "was not fully understood by the critical mass of the United States until Sept. 11, 2001," agreed James Kallstrom, who is New York Gov. George Pataki's senior policy adviser on terrorism.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-02-26-first-wtc-attack_x.htm

33. *February 26, Chicago Tribune* — **Evidence emerges of a broader 9/11 conspiracy in Germany.** The hijacking conspiracy spawned in the northern port city of Hamburg likely was broader and deeper than previously reported, according to investigative files amassed by German authorities since Sept. 11, 2001. **At least five and possibly seven presumed al Qaeda operatives appear to have fled Hamburg in the days before Sept. 11, tracing a hurried route through Turkey, Pakistan or the United Arab Emirates to what they believed was the sanctuary of an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan. Up to a dozen others who enjoyed close relationships with the hijackers stayed behind, possibly hoping to resume their pre-Sept. 11 lives as students or small businessmen while avoiding the scrutiny of police.**

Source: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0302260391feb26.1.2372975.story?coll=chi%2Dnews%2Dhed>

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